



April 2008

Office of Education, Division of Intramural Research
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

FELLOWS NEWSLETTER

The Fellows Newsletter is published monthly by the Office of Education, Division of Intramural Research, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and distributed to NHLBI DIR members to promote the interest of DIR Fellows.

Office of Education, DIR, NHLBI

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From the Director of the Office of Education

It will be hard to top the success of the recent retreat in Annapolis. If you missed it, you missed a major celebration of the research done by the Fellows and Students at NHLBI. The poster sessions were incredibly interesting, as were the talks by NHLBI fellows. We all owe a big thank you to Jessica Llewellyn and the Fellows Advisory Committee for the success of the retreat. Not surprisingly, we now begin the cycle once again for the next retreat, and we invite all fellows who want to participate to join in this activity.

This issue of the newsletter is timed perfectly for the Cherry Blossom Festival, which is in full swing all over town. Spring in Washington is a gift to all of us, and I urge you to take some time out from the lab to enjoy it. If you've never been there, I strongly recommend that you take a stroll around the Kenwood neighborhood of Chevy Chase this weekend. Kenwood is very near campus, close to downtown Bethesda. You can get a preview of what you will see by Googling "Kenwood Cherry Blossom", which will also show you how to get there.

As many of you know, NHLBI is searching for a new Tenure Track investigator. The candidates will be presenting their seminars over the next few weeks. If you are interested in an academic research position, it would be worthwhile for you to attend the seminars to learn more about how to present a job talk.

How do I deal with a telephone interview?

By

Herbert M. Geller, Ph.D.

In this era of cost-cutting, many companies and even some universities will use a telephone interview to screen their top-rated candidates, and some will use teleconferencing. The telephone interview is a critical step in the employment process, allowing companies and universities to reduce their recruitment expenses by weeding out unsuitable candidates. As such, it is critical that you do your best.

The fact that you are being interviewed already reflects that your training and experience as indicated in your C.V. are adequate for the job. So the interview will try to confirm what is on your C.V. and also probe for other characteristics that are related to the job and that are less apparent on paper, such as your communication skills, personality, knowledge and ability to think.

This interview can be one-on-one, or there may be several members of a search committee as interviewers. They will normally be scheduled in advance, so whatever format is used, it is important for you to understand what information is being sought and how to prepare for it. Make

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sure that you are completely free for the interview - don't try to schedule it between procedures that are time limited - you do not want your timer to go off in the middle of the interview. It is best to take the interview at home, out of the lab, where there should be fewer distractions and more privacy. Use a wired phone if possible, to avoid even the possibility of a dropped call. If you use a cell phone or a cordless phone, make sure that there is enough charge in the batteries to last for the expected duration of the interview. Disable call waiting, and do not use a speakerphone. Have your C.V. and application letter handy, so you can easily see what information they have on hand, and to make sure there are no contradictions. At the start of the interview, try to write down the names of the people on the other end and remember their voices; if at all possible, identify them by their name when you respond.

Obviously, their first priority is to establish your communication skills,

which are essential for success in either industry or academics. You need to be able to understand what is being asked and respond appropriately using non-verbal cues. For non-native speakers, telephone interviews are simultaneously more difficult for the candidate and more informative for the interviewer. The best advice is to speak slowly and clearly, in your normal tone of voice and with plenty of enthusiasm (since they will not be seeing your facial expressions). Do not have any distractions in the background, such as music or the vacuum cleaner and do not surf the web or check your e-mail during the conversation. Do not try to eat or chew gum. Answer questions as they are asked, with as complete answers as you can. Avoid simple "yes" or "no" answers, but don't run-on, giving irrelevant or going into topics that are not brought up by the interviewer (a good tip for all interviews).

The second goal will be to assess your qualifications for the position. Typical questions for an academic job will focus on research and teaching. You should be prepared to discuss briefly your research goals (which should be the specific aims of your grant) and how you hope to achieve them. You may be asked about your teaching philosophy or how you might teach a specific topic in your field to an introductory course. Other questions might revolve around your ability to mentor students. For an industry job, you may be asked more "conventional" questions, such as "Why do you want to work for us?", "What do you consider your strengths and weaknesses?" You should have a clear answer for each of these questions, with specifics, not generalities. If you are not absolutely sure that you heard the question, politely ask them to repeat it.

At the end of the interview, you should thank the interviewers for their time, and be as cordial as you can be.

New NHLBI Fellows



Guillermo Berjamo, Ph.D. is a recent fellow in the Laboratory of Molecular Biophysics under the mentorship of Dr. Nico Tjandra. He is originally from Argentina and received his Ph.D. in Chemistry from Carnegie Mellon University. While at the NHLBI he will be studying the structure and dynamics of proteins in solution via NMR techniques.



Anne Deschamps, Ph.D. is a postdoctoral fellow in the Pulmonary and Vascular Medicine Branch under the mentorship of Dr. Elizabeth Murphy. She received her Ph.D. from the Medical University of South Carolina in Molecular and Cellular Biology and Pathobiology. While at the NHLBI, Dr. Deschamps will be looking at newly identified G-protein coupled estrogen receptor in cardioprotection.



Saturoh Itoh, Ph.D., is a recent fellow in the Laboratory of Computational Biology under the mentorship of Dr. Bernard Brooks. He received his Ph.D. from the Graduate University for Advanced Studies in Aichi, Japan, also his native country. While at the NHLBI, Dr. Itoh's research project will focus on atherosclerosis.



Claudia Lagranha, Ph.D. is a postdoctoral fellow in the Pulmonary and Vascular Medicine Branch under the mentorship of Dr. Elizabeth Murphy. She received her Ph.D. in Physiology from the University of Sao Paulo in her native country of Brazil. While at the NHLBI, Dr. Lagranha will be determining the male/female differences in mitochondria proteome and mitochondrial function.



Junhe Ma, Ph.D. is a recent fellow in the Laboratory of Molecular Biochemistry under the mentorship of Dr. Nico

Tjandra. He received his Ph.D. in Chemical Technology from the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, China, which is also his native homeland. While at the NIH, Dr. Ma will be working on protein structure determination by NMR.



Kenneth Meyers, Ph.D., is a recent postdoctoral fellow in the Laboratory of Cell and Tissue Motility under the mentorship of Dr.

Clare Waterman. He received his Ph.D. from Drexel University College of Medicine. While at the NHLBI, Dr. Meyers will be investigating the role of microtubule depolymerases in polarized endothelial cells.



Renee Wong, Ph.D. is a postdoctoral fellow in the Pulmonary and Vascular Medicine Branch under the mentorship of Dr.

Elizabeth Murphy. She received her Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences from the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, SC. While at the NHLBI, she will be working on determining whether endosomal signaling contributes to mitochondrial cardioprotection in preconditioning.

Recent Publications by NHLBI Fellows

Gutierrez, L. F., Ozturk, C., McVeigh, E. R., & Lederman, R. J. (2008). A practical global distortion correction method for an image intensifier based x-ray fluoroscopy system. *Med. Phys.* 35, 997-1007.

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Miller, B. T., **Zheng, W., Venable, R. M., Pastor, R. W., Brooks, B. R.** (2008). Langevin Network Model of Myosin. *J. Phys. Chem. B.* PMID: 18311963

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